

**In The Claims:**

Please amend claims 4, 17, 18, 22, 24, 27, 28, 33, and 34, and please add new claims 35-38 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coupling two elements, comprising:
  - an outer tubular member defining one or more outer tubular member slots;
  - an inner tubular member defining one or more inner tubular member slots  
positioned within the outer tubular member; and
  - a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the  
inner tubular member, comprising:
    - a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the inner tubular member;
    - [one or more coupling arms] a coupling arm extending from the tubular  
coupling body; and
    - [coupling elements] a coupling element extending from [corresponding  
coupling arms] the coupling arm, said coupling element adapted to  
mate with [corresponding] at least one outer tubular member slot  
and at least one inner tubular member [slots] slot.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the coupling [arms extend] arm extends from the tubular coupling body in a longitudinal direction.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the coupling [elements extend] element extends from [corresponding coupling arms] the coupling arm in a radial direction.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising: a tubular support member defining an internal passage having a throat passage, a plurality of radial passages coupled to the internal passage, and an external shoulder that is coupled to the inner tubular member.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the tubular coupling body is movably coupled to the tubular support member.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising: a locking member coupled to the coupling assembly that comprises: a tubular locking body movably coupled to the tubular support member; and a plurality of locking dogs movably coupled to the tubular locking body for engaging the shoulder of the tubular support member.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coupling two elements, comprising:  
an outer tubular member defining one or more outer tubular member slots;  
an inner tubular member defining one or more inner tubular member slots  
positioned within the outer tubular member;  
a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the  
inner tubular member, comprising:  
a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the inner tubular member;

one or more coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body; and  
coupling elements extending from corresponding coupling arms adapted  
to mate with corresponding outer tubular member and inner tubular  
member slots;

a tubular support member defining an internal passage having a throat passage,  
a plurality of radial passages coupled to the internal passage, and an  
external shoulder that is coupled to the inner tubular member; and

[The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:] a tubular retaining sleeve  
releasably coupled to the tubular support member for retaining the  
coupling elements within the corresponding pairs of outer tubular member  
member and inner tubular member slots.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising: an annular pressure  
chamber defined between the tubular support member and the tubular retaining sleeve  
that is fluidically coupled to the radial passages of the tubular support member.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete  
circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner  
tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially  
spaced apart locations; and

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slots to  
the inner tubular member slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart  
locations.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

a decoupling assembly for controllably decoupling the outer tubular member from  
the inner tubular member if the operating pressure within the inner tubular member  
exceeds a predetermined value.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

a decoupling assembly for controllably decoupling the outer tubular member from the inner tubular member if the inner tubular member is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the outer tubular member and then displaced in an opposite longitudinal direction relative to the outer tubular member.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations; and

means for releasably coupling at least one [the] outer tubular member slot to at least one [the] inner tubular member slot.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for releasably coupling the outer tubular member slot to the inner tubular member slot comprises:

means for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member at a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart [positions] slots.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member comprises:

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member if the operating pressure within the inner tubular member exceeds a predetermined value.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member comprises:

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member if the inner tubular member is displaced relative to the outer tubular member in a longitudinal direction and then displaced relative to the outer tubular member in an opposite longitudinal direction.

32. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member defining a plurality of radial slots;

an inner tubular member defining a plurality of radial slots positioned within the outer tubular member;

a tubular support member defining an internal passage having a throat passage, a plurality of radial passages coupled to the internal passage, and an external shoulder that is coupled to the inner tubular member;

a coupling assembly for coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member, including:

a tubular coupling body movably coupled to the tubular support member;

a plurality of coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body in a longitudinal direction; and

coupling elements extending from corresponding coupling arms in a radial direction that mate with corresponding pairs of outer tubular member and inner tubular member slots;

a locking member coupled to the coupling assembly that comprises:

a tubular locking body movably coupled to the tubular support member;

and

a plurality of locking dogs movably coupled to the tubular locking body for engaging the shoulder of the tubular support member;

a tubular retaining sleeve releasably coupled to the tubular support member for retaining the coupling elements within the corresponding pairs of outer tubular member and inner tubular member slots; and

an annular pressure chamber defined between the tubular support member and the tubular retaining sleeve that is fluidically coupled to the radial passages of the tubular support member.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

a coupling assembly for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member at a plurality of the discrete circumferentially spaced apart [locations] slots;

a first decoupling assembly for controllably decoupling the outer tubular member from the inner tubular member if the operating pressure within the inner tubular member exceeds a predetermined value; and

a second decoupling assembly for controllably decoupling the outer tubular member from the inner tubular member if the inner tubular member is displaced in a longitudinal direction relative to the outer tubular member and then displaced in an opposite longitudinal direction relative to the outer tubular member.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an outer tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

an inner tubular member positioned within the outer tubular member, the inner tubular member comprising a plurality of slots at a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced apart locations;

means for releasably coupling the outer tubular member to the inner tubular member at a plurality of the circumferentially spaced apart [positions] slots;[.]

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member if the operating pressure within the inner tubular member exceeds a predetermined value; and

means for decoupling the inner tubular member from the outer tubular member if the inner tubular member is displaced relative to the outer tubular member in a longitudinal direction and then displaced relative to the outer tubular member in an opposite longitudinal direction.

• 35. (New) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of coupling arms extending from the tubular coupling body.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a plurality of coupling elements extending from the plurality of coupling arms.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the plurality of coupling elements are adapted to mate with a plurality of outer tubular member slots and a plurality of inner tubular member slots.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the plurality of coupling elements are mated with a plurality of outer tubular member slots and a plurality of inner tubular member slots.